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CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~COUNTRY Soviet Zone of GermanyTOPIC Soviet Troop Camps in the TEMPLIN AreaEVALUATION See below PLACE OBTAINEDDATE OF CONTENT See belowDATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 1 August 1949

REFERENCES

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letter of 16 October 1973 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
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Soviet Troop Camps in the TEMPLIN Area4 and 5 June 1949

1. Soviet tank and antitank artillery units were observed moving through ZEHDENICK (N 53/U 70) towards the northern section of the "Schorfheide" on 4 and 5 June 1949.
2. Three large cantonments with numerous bunkers and a total of about 300 cantonment buildings were observed at the "Schorfheide". One cantonment was located northwest of GROSSCHOENEBECK (N 53/Z 89), another one west of VOGELSANG (N 54/U 70) and the third east of HIMMELPFORT (N 54/U 72). Well camouflaged armored vehicles were parked near the cantonments.
3. A clearing of about 1 x 7.5 miles was being cut in the area of GRUNEWALD (N 54/U 80) - BEBERSEE (N 54/U 90) - GOLLIN (N 54/U 90) - VIELMANNSDORF (N 54/U 80). Maneuver ranges for tanks were allegedly established there.
4. It was said that all localities in the SCHLUFT (N 53/Z 89) GROSSDOELLEN (N 53/U 80) - LAGERSDORF (N 54/U 91) - BURGWALL (N 54/U 70) area were to be evacuated by civilians in the following weeks.

7 June 1949

5. A large, newly established troop camp was observed 7 June 1949 on the road leading to TEMPLIN, about 12.5 miles south of PRENZLAU (N 54/Q 04). The camp had an estimated capacity of 8,000 to 10,000 troops. It was surrounded by a high barbed-wire fence and connected with a water works. Several newly constructed watchtowers were seen. Only a small guard detail was located in the camp at the time of observation.

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15 June 1949

6. A large, newly established cantonment was observed 15 June 1949 in the immediate vicinity of the "Kannenburg Schleuse" (lock), i.e. about six miles north of ZEHDENICK (N 53/U 70). Source counted 165 well camouflaged tanks of types "T 34" and "IS", standing on planks and corduroy sections near the cantonment.
7. A firing range for tanks, 7 miles long and 1.8 miles wide, was allegedly to be established between the "Kannenburg Schleuse" and HIMMELPFORT.

a. Lumbermen stated that the Soviets would start firing practices at this range on 23 June 1949.

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Comment:

a. The LYCHEN-GROSSCHOENEBECK-HASSLEBEN-TEMPLIN area is considered from available information to be the training area (called TEMPLIN training area in the following) for component units of the Fourth GDR Secz Army (Cadre).

(1) Great efforts have been made since March 1949 to improve the TEMPLIN training area. Requisite work, such as the cutting of firing lanes and the construction of cantonment buildings, was not yet completed by mid-June 1949.

b. According to numerous reports (composed from information supplied by eleven sources), the following installations were observed in the training area:

(1) Camps: On the road leading to TEMPLIN, 12.5 miles south of PRENZLAU
in the TEMPLIN Forest (south of TEMPLIN)
East of HIMMELPFORT
West of HIMMELPFORT
Northwest of GROSSCHOENEBECK (also referred to as camp at the "Kannenburg Schleuse")

(2) Training areas:
Woods south of, and parallel to the road from LYCHEN to TEMPLIN
Area of VOGELSANG-GOLLIN
Area west of GRANSEL (?)
Area 12.5 miles south of PRENZLAU (?).

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